

REMARKS

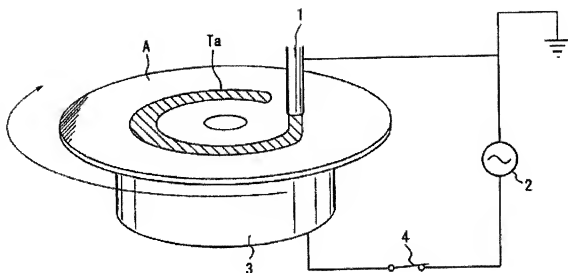
The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated July 13, 2006. Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1-16 are rejected. By way of the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended.

In view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 10-12, 14 and 15 as being unpatentable over Otsuka et al. (JP 10-312591) in view of Naka et al. (U.S. Patent no. 5,935,331). The Examiner suggests that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the adhesive-supplying nozzle disclosed by Otsuka et al. as an electrode that cooperates with a second electrode adjacent the lower mounting support as shown by Naka et al., such that the apparatus is capable of applying the adhesive uniformly. Applicants respectfully disagree.

However, in the interest of furthering the prosecution of the application, and without acknowledging the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite an apparatus for bonding two optical disc substrates together wherein the adhesive – supplying nozzle is connected to a terminal of the electric power supply and a ground potential. Support for the amendment is found generally in the specification as filed, and more particularly at page 7, lines 20-23, and at Fig. 2, reproduced below, which clearly shows adhesive-supplying nozzle 1 connected to a ground.

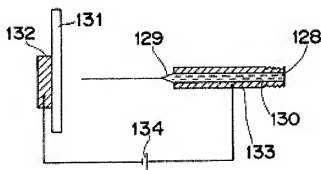


As amended, the recited apparatus includes an adhesive-supplying nozzle that connects to both a terminal of the electric power supply and a ground potential. Neither Otsuka et al. nor Naka et al. disclose an apparatus for bonding optical disc substrates together in which the adhesive-supplying nozzle is connected to both an electric power supply and a ground potential.

As indicated in the Office action itself, "Otsuka et al. are silent as to using the adhesive-supplying nozzle as an electrode that cooperates with a second electrode ... capable of forming an electrical field therebetween" (page 3, second paragraph). Applicants suggest that Otsuka et al. is similarly silent as to using the adhesive-supplying nozzle as an electrode that is connected to both an electric power supply and a ground potential.

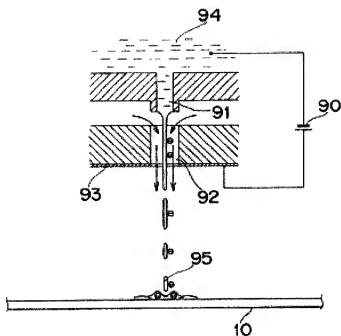
Applicants suggest that Naka et al. similarly fails to disclose an adhesive-supplying nozzle as an electrode that is connected to both an electric power supply and a

ground potential. As shown in Fig. 11 of Naka et al. (reproduced below), and as described at col. 14, lines 23-36, "the solution 130 is discharged from the nozzle 133 toward the coating-object member 131 by an electric field generated by applying a voltage between the rear electrode 132 and the nozzle 133 with the high-voltage power supply 134".



The reference provides no disclosure or suggestion that nozzle 133 is connected to a ground potential.

Applicants further suggest that by connecting the adhesive-supplying nozzle to both an electric power supply and a ground potential, a substantial advantage may be realized. In particular, the stored adhesive within the apparatus of claim 1 is not charged by virtue of being in contact with the adhesive present in the adhesive-supplying nozzle itself. This maintains the stability of the adhesive, and the effect of the voltage impression can therefore be heightened. This is in contrast with the disclosure of Naka et al., which suggests that the uniformity of an applied thin film can be improved by electrically charging the discharge liquid (at col. 12, line 9 to col. 13, line 3). In particular, Fig. 9 shows a potential being applied to the liquid stored in the apparatus of Naka et al.:



Applicants suggest that the cited references fail to establish the *prima facie* obviousness of claim 1, as the references fail to disclose each and every element of the claim, as amended. Further, the references provide no suggestion or motivation to modify the disclosed inventions so as to arrive at the claimed apparatus, specifically, the references provide no suggestion or motivation to connect the adhesive-supplying nozzle to both an electric power supply and a ground potential.

Even if the Examiner had established the *prima facie* obviousness of claim 1, Applicants suggest it is rebutted due to the substantial and unexpected advantage that the stability of the adhesive in the adhesive tank is improved by connecting the adhesive-supplying nozzle to a ground potential.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants suggest that the Examiner has failed to establish the *prima facie* obviousness of claim 1, and they therefore respectfully request

the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. As claims 2, 10-12, 14 and 15 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, Applicants suggest they are similarly unobvious over the cited references.

Claims 3, 13, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsuka et al. and Naka et al. as applied to claims 1, 2, 10-12, 14 and 15 above, and further in view of JP200036134 (Kotoyori et al.). The Examiner suggests that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use as the adhesive-supplying nozzle taught by Otsuka et al. as modified by Naka et al. a plurality of adhesive-supplying nozzles in a circular shape as shown by Kotoyori et al. such that the apparatus is capable of quickly applying the adhesive. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Applicants suggest that Otsuka et al. and Naka et al. fail to disclose each and every limitation of claim 1, as amended, and that therefore, even in combination with Kotoyori et al., the references fail to establish the *prima facie* obviousness of claim 1. As claims 3, 13, and 16 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, Applicants suggest they are similarly unobvious over the cited references, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 4, 5, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsuka et al. and Naka et al. as applied to claims 1, 2, 10-12, 14 and 15 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,102,629 (Hayashi et al.). In particular, the Examiner

suggests that Otsuka et al. and Naka et al. teach all of the limitations in claims 4, 5, 7, and 8 except for a specific teaching of the electric power supply generating alternating or direct current, and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the electric power supply in Otsuka et al. as modified by Naka et al. to generate one of alternating or direct current as was well known to form an electric field between two electrodes as shown for example by Hayashi et al. as only the expected results would be achieved. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Applicants suggest that Otsuka et al. and Naka et al. fail to disclose each and every limitation of claim 1, as amended, and that therefore, even in combination with Hayashi et al., the references fail to establish the *prima facie* obviousness of claim 1. As claims 4, 5, 7, and 8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, Applicants suggest they are similarly unobvious over the cited references, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsuka et al., Naka et al., and Kotoyori et al. as applied to claims 3, 13, and 16 above, and further in view of Hayashi et al. As discussed above, Applicants suggest that even in combination, the cited references fail to establish the *prima facie* obviousness of claim 1, as amended. As claims 6 and 9 depend from claim 1, Applicants suggest they are similarly unobvious over the cited references, and request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

It is believed that the subject patent application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned agent of record.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1540.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC
TRANSMISSION

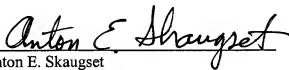
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically via the EFS-Web system at www.uspto.gov on October 13, 2006.



Suzanne Lukas-Werner

Respectfully submitted,

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